

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendments and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-13 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-11 and 14-15 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No claims are amended and no claims are newly added. Thus, no new matter is added.

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 1-8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nelson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,529,377, hereinafter “Nelson”); rejected Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nelson in view of Yazu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,124,884, hereinafter “Yazu”); and rejected Claims 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nelson in view of Snyder et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,418,019, hereinafter “Snyder”).

Claims 12-13 are allowed. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

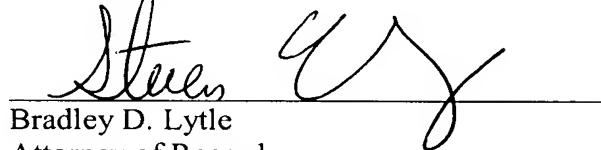
As Claims 1-8 and 10 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejection of Claims 1-8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nelson is rendered moot. As Claim 11 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejection of Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nelson in view of Yazu is rendered moot. As Claims 14-15 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejection of Claims 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nelson in view of Snyder is rendered moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that only claims indicated as reciting allowable subject matter are pending.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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